

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for drying items of clothing, which comprises:

providing an item of clothing;

providing at least one gas ~~jet~~ nozzle for supplying a ~~stream~~ jet of a gas; and

~~drying the clothing item at least in one portion thereof with the gas stream in a direction not parallel to the one portion~~

impacting the jet of gas on at least one portion the clothing item in a direction not parallel to the at least one portion of the clothing item for dehumidifying the at least one portion of the clothing item.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, which further comprises supporting the clothing item from a side of the clothing item opposite the at least one gas ~~jet~~ nozzle.

Claim 3 (original): The method according to claim 2, which further comprises supporting the clothing item with a supporting surface.

Claim 4 (original): The method according to claim 2, which further comprises supporting the clothing item with an air-permeable supporting surface.

Claim 5 (original): The method according to claim 3, which further comprises disposing the clothing item between two air-permeable surfaces.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method according to claim 2, which further comprises supporting the clothing item by a gas jet of gas.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method according to claim 6, which further comprises exerting jets of gas ~~streams~~ from gas ~~jets~~ nozzles on both sides of the clothing item in a direction of each other having a total force on the clothing item equal in magnitude.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method according to claim 6, which further comprises:

providing at least two gas ~~jets~~ nozzles disposed on opposite sides of the clothing item and facing one another; and

directing jets of gas ~~streams~~ on both sides of the clothing item with a total force on the clothing item being equal in magnitude.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method according to claim 6, which further comprises exerting jets of gas ~~streams~~ from gas ~~jets~~ nozzles on both sides of the clothing item in a direction of each other on sections of the clothing item with one of the gas ~~jets~~ nozzles having a higher force than another one of the gas ~~jets~~ nozzles.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method according to claim 6, which further comprises exerting jets of gas ~~streams~~ from gas ~~jets~~ nozzles on both sides of the clothing item in a direction of each other on sections of the clothing item with the gas ~~jets~~ nozzles having substantially the same force on both sides.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, which further comprises moving the at least one gas ~~jets~~ nozzles and the clothing item relative to one another.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, which further comprises providing the at least one gas ~~jet~~ nozzle with heated gas.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein the jet of gas ~~stream~~ contains heated gas.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, which further comprises providing the at least one gas ~~jet~~ nozzle with water vapor.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein the jet of gas ~~stream~~ contains water vapor.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, which further comprises, at an end of the drying step, heating the gas ~~jet~~ nozzle to calender the clothing item initially with substantially dry and heated air and then with substantially dry and non-heated air.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, which further comprises varying at least one of an outflow speed, a volume flow, and a directional distribution of the at least one jet of gas ~~stream~~ while drying the clothing item.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method for drying items of clothing, which comprises:

providing an item of clothing;

providing at least one gas ~~jet~~ nozzle for supplying a ~~stream~~ jet of a gas; and

~~drying the clothing item by directing the gas stream to at least one portion of the clothing item at an angle to the one portion~~

impacting the jet of gas on at least one portion of the clothing item at an angle different from zero to the at least one portion or the clothing item for dehumidifying the at least one portion of the clothing item.

Claim 19 (original): A method for drying items of clothing, which comprises:

providing an item of clothing;

providing at least one gas jet for supplying a stream of a gas;

drying the clothing item at least in one portion thereof with the gas stream in a direction not parallel to the one portion;

supporting the clothing item from a side of the clothing item opposite the at least one gas jet;

supporting the clothing item by exerting gas streams from gas jets on both sides of the clothing item in a direction of each other;

moving the at least one gas jet and the clothing item relative to one another;

providing the at least one gas jet with at least one of heated gas and water vapor;

at an end of the drying step, heating the gas jet to calender the clothing item initially with substantially dry and heated air and then with substantially dry and non-heated air; and

varying at least one of an outflow speed, a volume flow, and a directional distribution of the at least one gas jet while drying the clothing item.

Claim 20 (currently amended): An apparatus for drying items of clothing, comprising:

a housing defining a treatment space;

devices disposed in said housing for disposing items of clothing within said treatment space;

a blower disposed at said housing for producing a gas flow;
and

nozzles disposed in said housing and communicating with said blower, said nozzles being aligned to ~~direct~~ impact a jet of gas of the gas flow produced by said blower ~~to~~ on at least one portion of an item of clothing in said treatment space in a direction not parallel to the at least one portion of the clothing item for dehumidifying the at least one portion of the clothing item.

Claim 21 (cancelled).

Claim 22 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said nozzles direct the gas flow at an angle different from zero with respect to the at least one portion of the clothing item.

Drawing Amendments

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1 and 3. The sheet which includes Figs. 1 and 2 replaces the original sheet including Figs. 1 and 2. The sheet which includes Fig. 3 replaces the original sheet including Fig. 3. In Fig. 1, previously provided reference numeral "2b" was changed to --26--. In Fig. 3, previously omitted elements "26" were added.

Please approve the drawing changes that are marked in red on the accompanying "Annotated Sheet Showing Changes" of Fig(s). 1 and 3. Formal "Replacement Sheets" of amended Fig. 1 and 3 are also enclosed.

Attachments: Replacement Sheets

Annotated Sheets Showing Changes